



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street
Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 W. Church Street
Suite 300
Orlando, Florida 32805
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

Friday - August 11, 2006

**FORMER MOTOR VEHICLE EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO
CONSPIRACY TO RECEIVE GRATUITIES AND TO MAKE FALSE
STATEMENTS IN DRIVERS LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

Tampa, Fl. - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced that YOLANDA PIPPINS pleaded guilty before United States Magistrate Judge Thomas B. McCoun, III to conspiracy to make false statements and to corruptly solicit and accept things of value in connection with the actions of a State government agency. The charge carries a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

PIPPINS entered her plea of guilty to Count One of an information which the United States filed on July 17, 2006. According to the information and plea agreement and testimony at the guilty plea hearing, PIPPINS was an employee of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and worked at its Largo, Florida office. During the time period alleged in the information, she conspired with other individuals to obtain and receive money and things of value in exchange for approving applications by various license holders to obtain Commercial Drivers Licenses ("CDLs"). She approved these applications despite the lack of qualification of the applicants. In exchange for those

actions, PIPPINS received money and things of value from other co-conspirators who steered the CDL applicants to her.

The case was investigated by the United States Department of Transportation-Office of Inspector General, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Florida Highway Patrol and Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Tampa Division.